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SOURCE Gospodarka Planowa (Planned Economy), No 8, 1949.THE COAL INDUSTRY IN POLAND'S SIX-YEAR PLAN

The productive capacity of the prewar Polish coal industry was limited mainly because the major part of this industry was owned by foreign capital. During depressions German capitalists preferred to reduce the production of their Polish mines rather than of mines in their own country. In the period from 1932 to 1935, Polish production was approximately 40 percent lower than in 1929. Even when the index of over-all industrial production increased from 53.7 in 1932 to 55.4 in 1933, coal extraction decreased from 28.8 millions tons to 27.1 million tons.

In the period from 1932 to 1936, employment in the coal industry was barely 55 percent of that in 1929, the year of peak extraction, 46.2 million tons. In Gorny Slask alone, ten mines were shut down and employment in 1935 dropped to 50.5 percent of 1929. Seasonal and temporary layoffs resulted in a loss of 66 to 80 man-days per worker annually.

At the beginning of 1945, the entire coal basin passed into Polish hands practically undamaged. Of course, during the period of German occupation the mining equipment depreciated greatly, and the 440 million tons of coal extracted by the Germans during their 5 1/2 years of occupation contributed to the exhaustion of coal mines and manpower. Nevertheless, even under difficult conditions, 27.4 million tons of coal were extracted in 1945 and 47.3 million tons in 1948.

The Three-Year Plan set total extraction of black coal at 202.5 million tons. Now, in the second half of 1949, it is expected that coal extraction during the Three-Year Plan will reach 205 million tons. This means that coal exports may be increased to pay for purchases abroad of industrial equipment, transportation equipment, and raw materials which Poland lacks.

The Six-Year Plan for the coal industry aims to increase production during 1950 - 1955 26 percent over the anticipated 1949 production, and increase total production 28 percent in 1937 zlotys. Compared with 1938 black coal extraction of 38,100,000 tons, 1955 extraction will be 95 million tons. There will also be an increase in the production of brown coal, coke, briquettes, and the entire line of coal-tar derivatives such as tar, benzol, sulfate of ammonia, pitch, semicoke, etc.

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The increase in employment will be smaller than the increase in production because the index of labor productivity for 1955 will be 131, using 1949 as the base.

To increase production the coal industry will promote labor competition programs and will publicize shockworkers' methods in other mines. It will encourage innovations and workers' initiative. It will improve the occupational qualifications of workers and technicians. There will be proper coordination of underground work and surface operations. Discipline among workers and supervisors will be raised, labor mobility will be reduced, and the average age of miners will be younger. There will be an adequate supply of raw materials, machinery and electric power. Technological progress will be effected through mechanization, electrification, and standardization of equipment. Work norms will be applied in both underground and surface operations with full use of working time.

The mining industry spent 28,500,000,000 zlotys in the period 1945 - 1948 for preparatory work, including the extension of galleries, sinking of shafts for ventilation and transportation of crews and materials, digging stalls for machinery, etc. In 1949, these expenditures amounted to 19,700,000,000 zlotys.

However, investment outlays are not sufficiently high and the Six-Year Plan calls for investments for this industry amounting to 226 billion zlotys for the 6-year period. The coal industry will chart a course of development for coal mining and will, accordingly, group investments according to divisions such as, mine development, mining machinery, mechanical processing, electric power, industrial construction, social work, vocational training, etc.

The Six-Year Plan calls for coal extraction of 95 million tons in 1955, or 317,000 tons daily. This is dependent on exploration and test drilling, especially for coking-coal, metallurgical coal, and top-grade general purpose coal.

Mines now under development will account for 40 percent of the increase in extraction, while coal mines with regular production will produce, at the most, 15 percent more than at present. Mines which are almost depleted will reduce their production 30 percent compared to current production.

To cover the deficit of mines that are already developed and of new mines, the Six-Year Plan provides for the expansion of three mining enterprises, Kosciuszko, Wirek, and Gigant, and the construction of five new coal mines, Ziemowit, Wesola, Halemba, Julian, and Marlowice. For the development of Polish metallurgy, two new coking-coal mines must be developed.

Development work must be particularly intensive in the early years of the Six-Year Plan, since the effects of the preparatory work show up many years later. The plan calls for digging 16,500 linear meters of shafts and 150,000 linear meters of various excavations for the opening of 18 new levels. This will make a total of 55 levels in operation for the planned daily extraction of 317,000 tons in 1955.

The coal industry will install 26 extractive machines each with a capacity of over 1,000 kilowatts. It will build of domestic materials, 34 derricks, each weighing over 200 tons. It will install 16 cage hoists and 25 skip hoists.

To relieve the present bottleneck in processing and refining coal, it will be necessary to build seven new sorters and seven new flotation-process washers. In addition, 20 of the sorters and 16 of the washers now in operation must be expanded. Major repairs will be required for about 50 of the sorting and washing installations in numerous enterprises. This will partially meet the problem of refining pit coal, which is necessary for processing coking coal and coal for export. The coal industry spent 850 million zlotys from the investment credits alone for this purpose during the period 1945 - 1948.

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The Six-Year Plan calls for the erection at the mines of 45 large turbocompressors having a total intake capacity of 800,000 cubic meters of air per hour. The 465 compressors now in operation are in poor condition and have a total intake capacity of 3 million cubic meters of air per hour.

Of these, 180 compressors have been in use over 30 years; 120, 20-30 years; and 46, 10-20 years. The remaining 119, with a total intake capacity of one million cubic meters of air per hour, are relatively modern and have been in operation less than 10 years.

The Six-Year Plan provides for the installation at the mines of 44 boilers with a combined capacity of 450/560 tons of steam per hour. The electric power plants at the mines will receive 19 boilers with a total steam output of 670/800 tons per hour, and five turbo-combines with a total capacity of 135 kilowatts.

The electric power situation is similar to the compressor situation, that is, the efforts of the coal industry must be doubled to prevent losses in extraction due to power shortages.

The Six-Year Plan anticipates an increase in the use of sand filler from the current rate of 44,000 cubic meters per day to 90,000 cubic meters per day in 1955, so that instead of the present 15 million tons, 34 million tons of coal will be mined with the use of sand filler in 1955. In this connection the coal industry must build 155 kilometers of railroad sidings, 61 bridges, and 38 storage tanks at the mines; also 45 kilometers of highway, the so-called sand truckline with its bridges, railroad stations, rolling stock, and equipment. Problems of the sand filler have created bottlenecks for the Dabrowski, Katowice, Chorzow, Ruda, and Bytom coal associations. For this reason initial investments of 2,700,000 million zlotys, 13.3 percent of the entire investment quota, were made in the sand truckline in the years 1945 - 1948. This is only the beginning of a huge assignment to provide sand filler for the rational exploitation of the coal mines.

Prewar Poland's main supplier of machinery and equipment was Germany. Today, the Association of Mining Machinery and Equipment is expanding its factories. During the Six-Year Plan, the coal industry must develop its own factories for the production of various mining machinery such as rock-drills, hammers, pumps, coal cutters, loaders, and combines. By the end of the Six-Year Plan, the Polish coal industry will no longer depend upon other countries for machinery and equipment; in fact, it will be able to compete effectively with these countries on the export market in mining machinery and equipment.

The coal industry must also fulfill important assignments in the field of industrial construction, housing construction, trade schools, social work, public health, and occupational safety, to assure a firm foundation for further development of Polish mining.

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